

**Special Courts Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

May 11, 2007
Minutes

1. Members present. The following members of the committee were present Kenneth Abbott, Glenn Hancock, George Hoffman, Michael Pagano, Richard Tandy, and Peggy Quint Lohorn, Chair.
2. Staff present. Michelle C. Goodman provided the Committee with staff assistance.
3. Guest. Senior Judge John Kellam, Mary DePrez, JTAC, Jane Seigel.
4. Approval of minutes. The Committee approved the minutes from the February 2007 meeting.
5. JTAC Update. Mary DePrez provided an overview to the Committee on the Protection Order/No Contact Order Registry and the E-citation project now underway. Judge Sanders will be participating in the E-citation project.
6. Court structure discussion. Judge Lohorn provided an overview of the feedback received during the District meetings in March. Written comments received by the Judicial Center were distributed to the Committee for review. There were a few concerns raised about change, but overall everyone seemed open to the concepts and willing to explore them.

Judge Lohorn and Mag. Pagno also provided the Committee with feedback from the Bench Bar Meeting in Lake County in April. Mag. Pagno indicated that the preliminary feedback was on the Bar Association web page which included conclusions that the city court system is cheaper to operate; many think these courts should remain intact, issues with patronage; support to unify public defender services; county court jurisdiction should be expanded; and merit selection for all judges should be pursued. There is a follow-up committee in Lake County to continue to explore these ideas.

The Committee then discussed preparing a letter to the trial courts discussing this project and seeking additional input since all districts did not hold a meeting this year. The letter should include a basic plan, reasons why this should be pursued, and how it will effect the local courts. One point to highlight is the ability of judiciary to fashion the system. The Committee was asked to submit information to Michelle by May 31st.
7. 2007 meeting schedule. The Committee selected the following meeting dates for 2007:

Friday, August 24, 2007 at 11 a.m. (Indianapolis Time)
Friday, November 2, 2007 at 11 a.m. (Indianapolis Time)

All meetings will be held at the Indiana Judicial Center. The Committee also agreed that additional meetings may need to be scheduled depending on the development of proposals on the court structure project.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle C. Goodman
Staff Attorney